

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SSC-01 EB-07 COME-00 AID-05 /082 W

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R 031145Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3333

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PINT, CE

SUBJECT: CABINET CHANGES ANNOUNCED

REF: COLOMBO 2751 (NOTAL)

1. PRIME MINISTER SIRIMAVO BANDARANAIKE THREW TROTSKYITE LANKA SAMA SAMAJA PARTY (LSSP) OUT OF GOVERNING UNITED FRONT COALITION CABINET SEPTEMBER 2, ENDING LSSP'S 11-YEAR ALLIANCE WITH HER SRI LANKA FREEDOM PARTY. THREE WEEKS OF COALITION IN-FIGHTING CULMINATED IN PM CALLING FOR RESIGNATION OF THREE LSSP CABINET MINISTERS AFTER THEY REJECTED HER PROPOSAL TO RE-ALLOCATE PORTFOLIOS. UPON THEIR REFUSAL TO RESIGN, PM HAD THEM REMOVED BY PRESIDENT GOPALLAWA, AS PROVIDED FOR UNDER SL CONSTITUTION.

2. TWO CURRENT MINISTERS OF SRI LANKA FREEDOM PARTY WERE SWORN IN MORNING SEPTEMBER 3 TO FILL VACATED PORTFOLIOS. THIRD MINISTER, FELIX R.D. BANDARANAIKE, IS TO BE SWORN-IN, IN WASHINGTON ON SAME DATE. AS
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PREDICTED REFTTEL, BANKARANAIKE, NOW MINISTER OF

JUSTICE, PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOME AFFAIRS, HAS ALSO BECOME MINISTER OF FINANCE. HECTOR KOBBEKADUWA, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ALSO BECOMES MINISTER OF PLANTATION INDUSTRIES. SHIPPING AND TOURISM MINISTER P.B. G. KALUGALLE TAKES OVER ADDITIONAL PORTFOLIO OF TRANSPORT. NEW CABINET LINEUP IS REPORTED TO BE TEMPORARY AND FURTHER CHANGES ARE POSSIBLE IN NEAR FUTURE.

3. LSSP WILL SIT IN OPPOSITION BENCHES IN NATIONAL STATE ASSEMBLY BUT REPORTEDLY WILL SUPPORT THOSE MEASURES OF GOVERNMENT WHICH IT CONSIDERS "PROGRESSIVE." EVEN WITHOUT VOTES OF 17 LSSP MOS, GOVERNMENT SO FAR CONTINUES TO ENJOY SUPPORT OF 105 MPS OR MORE THAN TWO-THIRDS OF 157-MEMBER ASSEMBLY. COMMUNIST PARTY (MOSCOW WING) WITH SIX MPS REMAINS IN COALITION AND RETAINS ITS ONE CABINET MEMBER PIETER KEUNEMAN, MINISTER OF HOUSING AND CONSTRUCTION.

4. ANALYSIS OF NEW SITUATION AND FUTURE PROSPECTS WILL BE SENT SHORTLY.
VAN HOLLEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OPPOSITION PARTIES, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975COLOMB02769
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750304-0162
From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750985/aaaacxjh.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 COLOMBO 2751
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <24 OCT 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CABINET CHANGES ANNOUNCED
TAGS: PINT, CE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006